

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABU DH 01299 021231Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----021234Z 092798 /43

R 021205Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6019
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY DOHA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 1299

EXDIS

DEPT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : ENRG, OPEC, TC, VE
SUBJECT : VISIT OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ

REF: JIDDA 3106 (NOTAL), KUWAIT 2278 (NOTAL), CARACAS 4305 (NOTAL)

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1. VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, ACCOMPANIED BY VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SALOM AND MINISTER ENERGY AND MINES HERNANDEZ ACOSTA, MADE A QUICK FIVE HOUR VISIT TO ABU DHABI MAY 1. VENEZUELAN MET BY UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID AND OIL MINISTER UTAYBA. WITH TIME TAKEN FOR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE CEREMONIES AND LUNCH AT BATIN PALACE, WHERE ASSEMBLED DIPLOMATS COULD OVERHEAR CONVERSATION BETWEEN

TWO PRESIDENTS, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE TIME FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. AT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD JOINTLY BY UTAYBA AND HERNANDEZ ACOSTA, UTAYBA SAID THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD BRIEFED ZAYID ON OUTCOME OF TOUR IN MIDDLE EAST WHICH WAS AIMED AT REACHING SOLUTION TO OPEC OIL PRICE SYSTEM, WHILE ZAYID HAD EXPLAINED TO PRESIDENT PEREZ THE UAEG'S POSITION ON PRICING, PRODUCTION, AND IMPORTANCE UAE ATTACHED TO MAINTAINING OPEC UNITY. VENEZUELAN MINISTER SAID ZAYID HAD BEEN INVITED TO MAKE STATE VISIT TO VENEZUELA. INVITATION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED WITH DATES FOR VISIT TO BE FIXED AT A LATER TIME.

2. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO TALK TO UTAYBA AFTER THE VISIT (UTAYBA WAS OFF TO CAIRO FOR AN OPEC MEETING), IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT WAS ACCOMPLISHED. DAY PRIOR TO VISIT, UTAYBA WENT TO RIYADH TO MEET WITH YAMANI AND GET BRIEFING ON PEREZ VISIT THERE. UTAYBA ALSO CONVEYED MESSAGE FROM SHAIKH ZAYID TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD, WHICH WAS IN RESPONSE TO LETTER DELIVERED LAST FEBRUARY BY YAMANI ON INCREASING UAE OIL PRODUCTION (ABU DHABI 574 AND 583). WHILE THERE WAS NOT TIME TO DISCUSS WITH UTAYBA NATURE OF THE RESPONSE TO SAUDIS, UTAYBA DID TELL ME, WHEN WE WERE WAITING FOR PRESIDENT PEREZ AT AIRPORT, THAT HE DID NOT YET SEE A COMPROMISE ON OIL PRICE ISSUE FOR NUMBER OF REASONS. EVERYONE WAS NOW WAITING TO SEE IF MARKET FOR OIL FROM GULF STATES WILL SOFTEN (HE THOUGHT THERE WERE A FEW SIGNS), WHAT IMPRESSIONS CROWN PRINCE FAHD WOULD BRING BACK FROM HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON PROSPECTS FOR MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, AND EXTENT OF INCREASE IN ARAMCO PRODUCTION IN NEXT TWO MONTHS.

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3. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE AT LEAST, IT LOOKS LIKE IT IS STILL A STAND-OFF BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE AND OPEC ELEVEN, AND THAT UAE IS STILL PREPARED FOLLOW SAUDI LEAD.
DICKMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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